

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

ANDREW PETER RASMUSSEN,

Plaintiff,

v.

JASON RICHARDS *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. C07-5219RBL

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT  
OF COUNSEL

This Civil Rights action has been referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B). Before the court is plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel (Dkt. # 12).

There is no right to have counsel appointed in cases brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Although the court, under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1), can request counsel to represent a party proceeding *in forma pauperis*, the court may do so only in exceptional circumstances. Wilborn v. Escalderon, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986); Franklin v. Murphy, 745 F.2d 1221, 1236 (9th Cir. 1984); Aldabe v. Aldabe, 616 F.2d 1089 (9th Cir. 1980). A finding of exceptional circumstances requires an evaluation of both the likelihood of success on the merits and the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved. Wilborn, 789 F.2d at 1331.

Plaintiff has demonstrated an adequate ability to articulate his claims *pro se*. This case does not

1 involve exceptional circumstances which warrant appointment of counsel. Accordingly, Plaintiff's Motion  
2 to Appoint Counsel, (Dkt. # 12), is **DENIED**.

3 The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Order to plaintiff.  
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5 DATED this 23 day of July, 2007.  
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7 /S/ J. Kelley Arnold  
8 J. Kelley Arnold  
9 United States Magistrate Judge  
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